## **CLAIMS**

1. A method for activating a non-SMS device connectable to an IP-based network, comprising the steps of:

sending an activation message to said non-SMS device over an IP-based messaging protocol.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said activation message includes an SIA message identifier.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said activation message further includes an initiation command that initiates an action by said non-SMS device.
- 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said IP-based messaging protocol comprises a chat protocol.
- 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the issuance of an alert by said non-SMS device.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein said alert comprises an indication that there is new email available for download over said IP-based network.

- 7. The method of claim 3, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the launching of a program on said non-SMS device to download email via said IP-based network.
- 8. A system for activating a non-SMS device connectable to an IP-based network, comprising:

means for sending an activation message to said non-SMS device over an IP-based messaging protocol.

- 9. The system of claim 8, wherein said activation message includes an SIA message identifier.
- 10. The system of claim 9, wherein said activation message further includes an initiation command that initiates an action by said non-SMS device.
- 11. The system of claim 9, wherein said IP-based messaging protocol comprises a chat protocol.
- 12. The system of claim 10, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the issuance of an alert by said non-SMS device.

- 13. The system of claim 12, wherein said alert comprises an indication that there is new email available for download over said IP-based network.
- 14. The system of claim 10, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the launching of a program on said non-SMS device to download email via said IP-based network.
- 15. A computer program product for activating a non-SMS device connectable to an IP-based network, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program code comprising:

computer-readable program code that sends an activation message to said non-SMS device over an IP-based messaging protocol.

- 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein said activation message includes an SIA message identifier.
- 17. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein said activation message further includes an initiation command that initiates an action by said non-SMS device.

- 18. The computer program product of claim 16, wherein said IP-based messaging protocol comprises a chat protocol.
- 19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the issuance of an alert by said non-SMS device.
- 20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said alert comprises an indication that there is new email available for download over said IP-based network.
- 21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said action initiated by said initiation command comprises the launching of a program on said non-SMS device to download email via said IP-based network.
- 22. A method of activating a chat enabled, non-SMS device, comprising the configuring of said non-SMS device to:

identify SIA chat messages;

block display of an SIA chat message upon receipt; and

execute instructions contained in said SIA chat message to activate said non-SMS device.

- 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said activation of said non-SMS device comprises the performance of an action on said non-SMS device.
- 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said action comprises the issuing of an alert indicating the receipt of an email message by the server initiating said SIA.
- 25. The method of claim 23, wherein said action comprises the execution of a program to automatically connect said non-SMS device to the server intiating the SIA and download email newly received by said server.
- 26. A method of activating a chat enabled, non-SMS device via an SIA chat message, comprising the steps of:

configuring said non-SMS device to:

identify SIA chat messages; and

execute instructions contained in said SIA chat message to activate said non-SMS device; and

activating said non-SMS device by sending an SIA chat message to said non-SMS device, said SIA chat message including instructions to activate said non-SMS device.